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**TOWN OF ACTON
COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING
DATE: Monday, April 1, 2013 @ 3:00 P.M.
SENIOR CENTER – AUDUBON DRIVE**

Present: Barbara Willson, Chair; Charlie Aaronson, Vice Chair; Ann Corcoran, Secretary; Sharon Mercurio, Director; Sally Thompson, Treasurer; Steve Baran; Connie Ingram; Paul Turner; Marion Maxwell; Mike Gowing, Liaison Board of Selectmen; Ray Grey, Liaison Acton Police Dept;

Absent:, Jim Papachristos, Norma Wu

Materials distributed:

Agenda: Barbara Willson

Director's Report: Sharon Mercurio

Treasurer's Report: Sally Thompson

Research Material re: COA Goals: Sally Thompson

Business Meeting

Call To Order – Barbara Willson Meeting called to order at 3:00

Minutes of March 4, 2013 Meeting:

Ann Corcoran submitted the minutes of March meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Director's Report: Sharon Mercurio

Sharon presented her report to the Board. (see report for details)

Sharon also reminded the board of the Volunteer Tea to be held on April 30th.

Treasurer's Report: Sally Thompson distributed an interpreted report of Sharon's current spreadsheet for 3rd quarter expenditures. (see report)

Announcements- Barbara Willson

Certification/Conflict of Interest; Barbara reminded members that they should have their certification from the website test on file with the Town Clerk

Wellness University scheduled to be held on April 27th at the High School, Barbara requested input as to the participation level of the COA Board. A discussion noted that the Wellness University showcased health and health services in the town and not just elder services. Members declined participation.

EOEA training will again be offered to COA Boards. A list of locations and dates is available from Sharon. (most local training offered in Lincoln June 14)

Open Meeting Law Guide was revamped effective 3/12/2013 and available at the Town clerk's office. Mary A. (Town Clerk) had emailed to Board changes and checklists for boards to follow.

Town Meeting to be held beginning tonight April 1 at 7 pm, Board members should be familiar with the Town Report and Warrant Articles. Transportation is available door to door free of charge to seniors.

Marion Maxwell noted that a warrant article for Town Meeting tonight proposed amending the Town Charter to provide for two Associate Members on all town committees. In addition to the COA Board's nine regular members, two Associates would be added. Marion moved the following:

THAT THE COA BOARD recommend that membership be changed to seven regular members plus two associate members.

The motion was seconded. Charlie Aaronson said there is no problem filling vacancies on the Board and others felt a larger group would help in advocating for a new senior center.

The proposal lost by a vote of 8 against and 1 for the change.

Liaison Reports (Taken out of order so as to facilitate Mike Gowing's readiness for the meeting to be held in a few hours.)

Board of Selectmen Mike Gowing, representative from the selectmen urged all members to attend Town meeting April 1st. He reported the expansion of the transportation regionalization to include Carlisle, the CIC in phase II is reaching out to other town COA Boards to hear their proposals. Noted there will be a special town meeting June 3rd re school regionalization.

Acton 2020 Marion Maxwell, The 2020 Committee is asking Town Meeting to approve an article for \$277,000 for design plans to improve Kelley's Corner.

Minuteman Senior Services: Charlie A reported on a recent meeting held in Burlington at the Senior Center. He was impressed by a unique way the center included a variety of ethnic groups which encouraged their participation in the center's other activities. The Burlington center hosts ethnic lunches prepared by local ethnic restaurants which are very well attended and anticipated by seniors. Costs for these lunches to seniors is reasonable as there is a fund which defrays some of the costs.

Council on Disabilities: Steve B. reported good solid thinking behind the guide created for new members.

Acton Police Dept: Ray Grey reported the emphasis on social welfare issues for elders.

Discussion of Goals

Sally Thompson presented information from her research into the COA from the Boston Area for our goal of reaching a more diverse population.(see notes)

Information from that report which we should note :

Centers have a Name i.e.: Harvey Wheeler Center which encourages younger seniors to participate.

Activities are geared to encourage a range of interests.

Activities involve a wide spectrum of ethnic groups.

Activities utilize a broad range of time during the day and week.

Activities expand knowledge of participants regarding health and well being issues.

Adjournment at 4:30